New Parks North

An annual progress report on natural and cultural heritage initiatives in Northern Canada.

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Introduction

This annual newsletter provides brief status reports on projects concerning the establishment and development of new parks, related heritage areas and other conservation initiatives in northern Canada. Aboriginal land claims remain a key factor in the establishment of parks and other protected areas.

The *Yukon First Nations Umbrella Final Agreement (1993)* has led to 11 First Nation Final Agreements: Champagne and Aishihik, Vuntut Gwitchin, Nacho Nyak Dun, Teslin Tlingit Council, Little Salmon/Carmacks, Selkirk, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Kluane and Kwanlin Dün. Carcross/Tagish First Nation ratified their final and self-government agreements on 24 October 2005, with an effective date of 9 January 2006. *The Carcross/Tagish First Nation Final Agreement* contains provisions for the establishment of four new Special Management Areas that include Kusawa Lake and Agay Mene as territorial parks, along with both Lewes Marsh and Tagish River as Habitat Protection Areas. Kusawa Lake and Lewes Marsh are also identified as Special Management Areas in the Kwanlin Dün Final Agreement due to the existing overlap in their traditional territories. Three Yukon First Nation claims are still outstanding.

The Tłı̨cho Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement received Royal Assent on 15 February 2005. Government and the Dehcho First Nations have signed a Framework Agreement and an Interim Measures Agreement. These Agreements mark significant steps in the Deh Cho Process toward negotiating a final agreement. The Northwest Territory Métis Nation is currently working with government toward an agreement-in-principal. Land claim and treaty land entitlement considerations for all areas where claims are not settled will strongly influence the timing of conservation proposals in those areas.

The Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1992) and the *Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1993)* address natural areas, wildlife and heritage conservation issues. Three national historic sites have been designated

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Yukon, NWT and Nunavut Land Claim Settlement Regions

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Canada Yukon Government Nunavut Protected Areas Strategy

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within these claim areas. As identified in the Sahtu Agreement, an Impact and Benefit Plan was signed on 1 August 2005 adding Sahtu lands to the existing Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada. Within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, approximately 18% is conserved by national parks and managed in a co-operative manner by Parks Canada and agencies created under the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement (1984)* or otherwise by agreement with Inuvialuit.

The *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (1993)* provides a process for the establishment of national parks, territorial parks, and conservation areas in Nunavut. Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements must be concluded for all existing territorial parks and for management plans for all existing parks and conservation areas.

Further information on the above mentioned land claim agreements may be found at the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada site at **www.inac.gc.ca**, by following the links through the Site Map to Publications and Research; Agreements; Comprehensive Claims Agreements.

New Parks North has been organized by claim area or settlement region. These areas are indicated on the map on the front page.

Judi Cozzetto, Editor

Aboriginal Land Claims

Editor's Note: The following article was compiled from several government sources and is updated yearly. It is included here to provide a brief introduction to Aboriginal land claims for persons not familiar with them.

A Brief Overview

In Canada, the common law concept of Aboriginal rights and title has been recognized by the courts. The existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of Aboriginal people have also been recognized and affirmed under section 35 (1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

The evolution and development of the federal government's land claims policy has been closely linked to court decisions. The first claims policy statement in 1973 was initiated by a decision of the Supreme Court of Canada (the 1973 *Calder* decision), which acknowledged the existence of Aboriginal title in Canadian law. In order to address uncertainties created by the decision, the federal government announced its intention to negotiate claim settlements. As the policy developed, claims were divided into two types:

- comprehensive claims – based on the concept of continuing Aboriginal rights and title that have not been dealt with by treaty or other legal means; and
- specific claims – arising from alleged non-fulfillment of Indian treaties and other lawful obligations, or the improper administration of lands and other assets under the *Indian Act* or formal agreements.

In recent years, an unnamed third category of claims has developed to deal with Aboriginal grievances that fall within the spirit of the comprehensive and specific claims policies, but do not meet strict acceptance criteria.

Comprehensive Claims

The primary purpose of comprehensive claims settlements is to conclude agreements with Aboriginal groups that will resolve the legal ambiguities associated with the common law concept of Aboriginal rights. The objective is to negotiate modern treaties which provide clear, certain, and long-lasting definition of rights to lands and resources. Negotiated comprehensive claim settlements provide for certainty for governments and third parties in exchange for a clearly defined package of rights and benefits for the Aboriginal beneficiaries codified in constitutionally-protected settlement agreements.

Comprehensive claim agreements define a wide range of rights and benefits to be exercised and enjoyed by claimant groups. These may include full ownership of certain lands, guaranteed wildlife harvesting rights, participation in land and resource management throughout the settlement area, financial transfers, resource revenue-sharing and economic development measures.

If a national park is established in a settlement area through the claim process, the claimant group continues to exercise its traditional harvesting activities within this protected area. As well, a management board may be established, with representation from the Aboriginal community and government, to advise the Minister on the management of the national park. Finally, the land claim agreement sets out what economic opportunities associated with the national park will be enjoyed by the claimant group. These may include employment provisions and contracting opportunities.

Significant amendments to the federal comprehensive claims policy were announced in December 1986, following an extensive period of consultation with Aboriginal people. Key changes to the policy included the development of alternatives to blanket extinguishment of Aboriginal rights as well as provision for the inclusion in settlement agreements

of offshore wildlife harvesting rights, resource revenue-sharing and Aboriginal participation in environmental decision-making. The 1986 policy also provides for the establishment of interim measures to protect Aboriginal interests during negotiations, and the negotiation of implementation plans to accompany final agreements.

The 1997 Supreme Court of Canada decision in *Delgamuukw* has initiated calls from within Aboriginal communities to once again review the comprehensive claims policy. The *Delgamuukw* decision is the first comprehensive treatment by the Supreme Court of Canada of Aboriginal title.

Self-government negotiations may take place parallel to, or at the same table as, the comprehensive claims negotiations. The federal government is prepared to consider constitutional protection of certain aspects of self-government where the parties to the agreement concur. Self-government must be negotiated in keeping with the 1995 *Framework for the Implementation of the Inherent Right and the Negotiations of Self-Government policy*.

Specific Claims and Treaty Land Entitlement

Specific claims relate to the fulfillment of treaties and to the federal government's administration of Indian reserve lands, band funds and other assets. The government's primary objective with respect to specific claims is to discharge its lawful obligations to First Nations.

Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) is a large category of claims that relate primarily to a group of treaties that were signed with First Nations, mainly in the prairie provinces. Not all these First Nations received the full amount of land promised. Claims from First Nations for outstanding entitlements are categorized as TLE claims and are handled separately from other specific claims.

Other Claims

The federal government is reaching or negotiating settlement of a number of other Aboriginal grievances, which have sometimes been referred to as claims of a third kind. These grievances fall within the spirit of the comprehensive and specific claims policies, but do not meet strict acceptance criteria.

Deh Cho

After the failure of the *Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* in 1990, the Dehcho First Nations (DFN) requested the establishment of a Deh Cho Territory and their own process to deal with the Crown. The Deh Cho Process is the governance, lands and resources negotiations among federal and territorial governments and the DFN. Negotiations have resulted in a Framework Agreement and an Interim Measures Agreement. The Framework Agreement sets out the scope, process, topics and parameters for negotiation of an agreement-in-principle and a final agreement. The Interim Measures Agreement provides for participation of the DFN in the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management regime; a regional land use planning process that will facilitate resource development; an interim management arrangement for Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada; and interim land withdrawals and the negotiation of a resource development agreement. The Nahʔą Dehé Consensus Team (NDCT) is a team of seven people consisting of two appointees by DFN, two appointees by the Nahanni Butte Dene Band and three appointees by Parks Canada. The NDCT is assisting the DFN and the Band with the development of traditional renewable resource harvesting protocols, the development of Aboriginal tourism, and other community and economic development options. The Consensus Team operates according to an interim park management arrangement between Parks Canada and the DFN, under which the team may make recommendations to the Superintendent and Grand Chief on management of the park reserve.

Northwest Territory Metis Nation

In 2002, this group, formally known as the South Slave Metis Tribal Council, changed its name to the Northwest Territory Metis Nation.

When the *Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* failed to be ratified by a majority of the Aboriginal people of the Mackenzie Valley in 1990, the federal government decided to enter into regional claims in this part of the NWT. However, in the South Slave District, the Akaitcho Treaty 8 Dene opted to seek fulfillment of their treaty land entitlements rather than enter into a regional comprehensive land claim. This left some Metis in the area without a vehicle to press for their concerns. The then Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada offered to enter into a non-rights based process with the Metis of the South Slave District to deal with their concerns. A Framework Agreement was signed in August 1996 that outlines a two-stage negotiation process – land and resources and, after the signing of an agreement-in-principle, negotiation of self-government issues. Negotiations toward an agreement-in-principle are continuing.

Akaitcho Treaty 8

In 2000, negotiations began between government and the approximately 2,000 Akaitcho Treaty 8 Dene who assert traditional use of lands primarily south and east of Great Slave Lake, and north-easterly as far as the Nunavut boundary. After a break in 2002, negotiations resumed in January 2003, with emphasis on lands and governance issues and are progressing.

Tłı̨cho

The *Tłı̨cho Land Claims and Self Government Agreement* received Royal Assent on 15 February 2005. Arising out of the failed *Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*, this *Agreement* is the first combined land claim and self-government agreement in the NWT and is the product of over 10 years of negotiations. The new Tłı̨cho Government succeeds the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council and Indian bands in the Tłı̨cho communities. The Tłı̨cho Government has law making powers to manage Tłı̨cho land and resources, and to protect the language, culture and way of life.

Nunavut

Government of Canada – Parks Canada Agency

Ukkusiksalik National Park of Canada

A number of known sites were recorded in more detail on Tashyuyak (Ford Lake) at the western end of Ukkusiksalik National Park on Wager Bay, an inland sea that extends 100 km westward from Hudson Bay. The park includes a variety of landforms and wildlife habitats. Inuit residents from Kivalliq communities still travel to the area to hunt and fish. Ukkusiksalik means *"the place where there is stone that can be used to carve pots and oil lamps."*

In the early 1990s a helicopter survey located over 500 sites along the shores of Wager Bay, on Ford and Brown lakes and on the major rivers flowing into the bay. This concentration of sites, many of which are extensive, indicates that the area was used by both Thule Inuit and Ukkusiksalingmiut over the last several hundred years. Evidence of earlier occupations has not yet been found, but could exist along the south shore of the bay.

Tashyuyak is an extension of Wager Bay. Reversing falls, where the bay narrows to enter the lake, are affected by the tides of Wager and Hudson bays. Approximately 20 sites were mapped and photographed, although no artifacts were collected. The largest sites are located in prime areas for hunting and fishing, such as at the reversing falls, at the confluence of rivers, and where rivers and streams enter Ford Lake.

A few sites with semi-subterranean houses made with sod, stone and whalebone show that Thule people occupied this area in the winter. Other sites indicate a presence in the warmer seasons of the year in the form of *qammaiit* and substantial tent rings made with very large and heavily lichenated rocks. Later, Ukkusiksalingmiut also lived in the area. Most of the sites recorded contained a number of different kinds of features including *kikhluit* or *igait* (hearths), windbreaks, qayaq stands, wolf and fox traps, and caches or food stores.

The builders of these structures used the abundant supply of rocks in ingenious ways to make comfortable dwellings. Often large immovable boulders or flat-sided outcrops were incorporated into the wall of a dwelling or cache/food store. Rocks were also fitted together and supported to make walls two to four courses high. Hearths, indoor and outdoor, were made by placing two small rocks backed by a long rock in an open-sided rectangle to form a small, protected space for a fire of driftwood, willow twigs, or possibly bone.

Northern Bathurst Island

The eastern portion of Bathurst Island is an area of high mineral potential, but is also an area important for Peary Caribou, an endangered species. Rather than foreclose any possibility of mineral development in that area, government is proposing to exclude the eastern portion of the high resource potential Cornwallis Fold Belt from the park in exchange for islands to the west. A moratorium on mineral exploration and development would be put in place on the excluded lands until the Peary Caribou recover or their fate

Kaviq Kaluraq of Baker Lake uses a DGPS (Differential Geographic Positioning System) to record the location of a Thule winter house at Tinnittuktuq Point.

is otherwise determined. Once lifted, exploration and development would be subject to any special management measures to protect Peary Caribou developed during the period of the moratorium.

With agreement from the Resolute Bay Community Lands and Resources Committee (CLARC) and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA), the federal government reconfigured and renewed the interim land withdrawal for this area until October 2009. The new withdrawal includes the proposed special management area and islands to the west of the original land withdrawal. The CLARC was clear, however, that its support for the new withdrawal does not mean support for government's proposed boundaries or the special management area proposal.

In 2005, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) intended to convene, in Resolute Bay, a workshop of stakeholders to explore the government concept described above. This workshop has been postponed pending the result of a controversial initiative to list Peary Caribou under the *Species at Risk Act*.

INAC, in consultation with other federal and Nunavut government departments, representatives from Resolute Bay, the QIA and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, will reschedule the workshop once the Peary Caribou controversy no longer holds the potential to interfere with conducting the workshop.

Environment Canada – *Canadian Wildlife Service*

Existing Conservation Areas

The *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* devotes an entire chapter to conservation areas, including two National Wildlife Areas and 11 Migratory Bird Sanctuaries administered by the Canadian Wildlife Service. These sites protect approximately 80,000 km^2 of terrestrial wildlife habitat and 14,000 km^2 of marine wildlife habitat in Nunavut.

Conservation Areas as Research Sites

Aside from protecting valuable Canadian wildlife resources, several of the sanctuaries and wildlife areas in Nunavut serve as key locations for research on migratory birds. Between 2000 and 2005 ongoing surveys and focal research projects have taken place in the Queen Maud Gulf, East Bay, Prince Leopold Island, Dewey Soper, Bylot Island, McConnell River and Seymour Island Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Inuit Heritage Trust

Introduction

The Inuit Heritage Trust (IHT) is dedicated to the preservation, enrichment and protection of Inuit cultural heritage and identity, and deals with issues of archaeology, ethnographic objects and archives. IHT activities are based on the principle of respect for traditional knowledge and the wisdom of

Tourists and Bird Observations

In the past few years, the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) has received valuable information on bird numbers and their distribution from tourists visiting Nunavut. Particularly important observations of threatened or endangered species have been sent in, but new information has also been received on everything from Atlantic Puffins to Swainson's Thrushes.

These data are particularly important at a time when both terrestrial and marine environments in Nunavut are changing from a variety of stressors (climate change being the most noticeable). A very useful source of data comes from cruise ships, as there are few other sources of data for the distribution and numbers of birds at sea. If you are visiting Nunavut and you have the opportunity to observe and record bird numbers and locations, CWS encourages you to forward information to the contact numbers under "For More Information." Any observations of Ivory Gulls, Ross's Gulls, or Harlequin Ducks would be especially welcomed!

Elders. IHT was established in 2004 and receives its mandate from Articles 33 and 34 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

Pond Inlet
Archaeological Field School

Each year the Inuit Heritage Trust hosts an archaeological field school for beneficiaries so that they can explore career opportunities while gaining practical experience in archaeology. This year, at the Qilalukan site just outside of Pond Inlet, 10 beneficiaries gathered for three weeks to participate in the field school. Though a few are continuing the study of archaeology and Inuit heritage, others appreciated the knowledge gained about their ancestors and of the experience of living in a different community.

Taloyoak –
Stories of the Thunder and Stone

"Community members in Taloyoak described an area near town that had many stories connected to it. Many were considered to be ghost stories, and the community wanted to learn whether archaeological evidence could match and support any of the information told in those stories. Community members were also concerned that important history was being lost through looting of the sites over the years..."

For oral narratives and more information from the Taloyoak Archaeology and Oral History project in Taloyoak, please refer to the web site at **www.taloyoaknunavut.ca**

Traditional Place Names

A historic event has taken place in the topographic history of Nunavut and Canada. Inuit Heritage Trust (IHT) has submitted four topographic maps containing traditional Inuktitut place names to the Government of Nunavut (GN). This begins the process of making these Inuktitut place name maps the official maps of Nunavut, thereby validating the Inuit names for these places and the traditional knowledge surrounding them. Following a series of consultations, the GN will submit these to the federal government for approval. IHT has played an integral roll in documenting place names and creating maps within Nunavut communities over the past few years.

Arctic People and Archaeology Educational CD

Inuit Heritage Trust (IHT) has produced an award-winning multimedia CD titled "Arctic People and Archaeology". It incorporates text, images and sound to discuss the Arctic's first peoples, archaeology and traditional knowledge in Nunavut. It contains in-depth information on Inuit history from prehistoric times until the present. This CD was designed to fit a Grade 8 curriculum and contains additional information on Arctic plants and their uses, place names, and a challenging game based on surviving in the Arctic. Available in English/Inuktitut or English/French, the CD has been distributed to all schools in Nunavut and can be purchased by contacting the IHT office at (867) 979-0731.

Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment – *Nunavut Parks and Special Places*

Introduction

Nunavummiut (*"people from Nunavut"*) have chosen to protect portions of their land and wildlife, cultural and archaeological sites, and scenery, landscapes and waterscapes. Such special places include Katannilik, Iqlugaarjuup Nunanga and Ovayok Territorial Parks, and conservation areas such as the Kazan Canadian Heritage River and the Thelon Game Sanctuary.

There are many other important special places yet to be identified or protected. These may include ocean coastal or riparian sites, trails, critical wildlife areas that are important for caribou calving or polar bear denning, or globally significant landscapes such as the "Fossil Forests" on Axel Heiberg Island.

To better recognize these special places, the Parks and Conservation Areas Division changed its name to Nunavut Parks and Special Places. It is expected that this change will better reflect the work undertaken with the communities, the division's mandate and its role in parks and conservation areas development, planning and implementation, and the role the division plays in Nunavut.

Legislation
and Program Development

With the recent name change, Nunavut Parks and Special Places is beginning the process of redefining its core tools. The development of a new Nunavut Parks and Special Places Program, revision to the *Territorial Parks Act* and Regulations, and a review of the Territorial Parks System Plan and Historic Sites Plan are being initiated. Pending confirmation of funding, joint planning and management committees will be established as outlined in the Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement.

An Umbrella Inuit Impact
and Benefit Agreement
for Territorial Parks

The 1993 *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA)* changed the role of government in the protection of the environment for Nunavut. This *Agreement* recognizes the value and desirability of parks and conservation areas, and further defines an approach to the establishment of protected areas within Nunavut – including meaningful community involvement, management, and impact and benefit measures related to protected areas.

As part of the *NLCA* obligations, the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and each of the three regional Inuit Associations negotiated an Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement (IIBA) for territorial parks. The IIBA will assist in the development of Inuit tourism opportunities and benefits associated with parks by providing training and economic opportunities, and establishing a process toward the joint management and planning of the lands and resources in existing and future territorial parks. The establishment of co-management structures will be instrumental in helping develop the Nunavut Parks and Special Places program. The parties will focus on implementing the IIBA and continue to negotiate with the federal government for funding to implement its 17 Articles.

A New Nunavut Wildlife Act

In 2005, Nunavut passed a new *Nunavut Wildlife Act*. In addition to reflecting the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA)*, the *Act* also addresses wildlife management in a way that fully takes into account Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (*"that which is long known by Inuit"*). Inuit values and principles have been followed, and Inuit rights to harvest and have access to the land for harvesting have been expanded and protected. The *Act*, and its Regulations which are currently under development, include authority for the management and protection of habitat and provides for the establishment of special management areas and administrative areas. Critical habitat will be designated for endangered or threatened species and activities will be limited within these habitats, with the exception of Inuit activities.

The *Act* has also been updated to reflect new federal legislation and International Agreements, including the *Species at Risk Act* (Canada) and the *International Convention on Biodiversity*, and provides the tools necessary to ensure that all species remain healthy and abundant.

Critical habitats, wildlife sanctuaries and special management areas are considered Conservation Areas under the *NLCA* and establishment will require negotiation of Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreements.

Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan

The Thelon Game Sanctuary was established in 1927 under the *Northwest Territories Game Act*, with lands withdrawn from disposal in 1930 under the *Territorial Lands Act*. Through the *Game Act*, the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) has the power to regulate use, carry out assessment and enforcement of development restrictions, undertake habitat management and develop caribou protection measures in the Sanctuary.

INAC approved the Thelon Game Sanctuary Management Plan in 2005. The Plan was co-ordinated by the Government of Nunavut (GN), in keeping with its obligations under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NCLA)*, and is supported by the community of Baker Lake, the Kivalliq Inuit Association, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

The completion of the management plan is a first step toward planning and management of the Thelon. As a Conservation Area under the *NLCA*, an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement will need to be prepared, and the plan will need to be implemented. The GN will continue to work with all parties to ensure the recommendations and actions identified in the management plan are met.

Territorial Park Feasibility Studies and Related Projects

Attraction development projects were initiated in 2001 as a means of enhancing tourism and related economic development. These projects include the design and fabrication of an interpretive signage program relating to the Fox Main Dew Line site in Hall Beach, a parks and attraction development study in Kugaaruk, and preliminary studies in Clyde River and Coral Harbour. Work continues on park feasibility studies for Kugaaruk, Alijivik in Coral Harbour and a territorial park proposal in the Clyde River area.

Polar Bears: A Guide to Safety

Polar bear country is experiencing unprecedented levels of community, industrial and tourism development. As human presence in polar bear country continues to rise, both people and bears are being unnecessarily harmed. Although human injury is rare, hundreds of polar bears are shot each year in defence of life and property. This, combined with recent environmental factors, could have a negative impact on polar bear populations.

In 2002, the Government of Nunavut and Parks Canada initiated the production of a Polar Bear Safety DVD, which builds on the success of two high quality educational videos developed by the Safety in Bear Country Society: "Staying Safe in Bear Country" and "Working in Bear Country". Proceeds from the sales of these videos are directed back into further educational efforts.

Appropriate behaviour by humans in bear country can be achieved through proper education. Target audiences include residents and visitors living, travelling and working in polar bear country.

The DVD will be released in both English and Inuktitut in 2006 and will be available in Visitor Centres throughout Nunavut.

Kugaaruk Territorial Park Feasibility Study

A study to protect and preserve natural and cultural heritage, and enhance recreation and tourism opportunities and economic development, was initiated in Kugaaruk in early 2005. Following a preliminary resource inventory, community consultations and discussions with the Parks Steering Committee, the study area was expanded to a larger area around Pelly Bay to take advantage of opportunities outside of Kugaaruk – including coastal areas, hiking and camping, physiography, wildlife and vegetation, and cultural heritage. The project included additional consultations on appropriate park development and identification of a preferred park study area for future park development around Kugaaruk. The feasibility study was completed in early 2006.

Alijivik – Fossil Creek

Together with the Department of Environment (DoE), the community of Coral Harbour has identified the historic site of Alijivik as a preferred area for territorial park consideration. Alijivik is located on Inuit Owned Lands and is managed by the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA). As such, agreements between DoE and the KIA, and the Hamlet and the KIA are required. Until those agreements are in place, DoE cannot advance the Alijivik proposal.

An interpretive trail program at Fossil Creek was initiated in 2004/05. This area is renowned for its high concentration of exposed fossils and could serve as a local attraction in support of a future Alijivik Territorial Park. In consultation with the community, the Fossil Creek project conducted research on the natural history of the area, site fieldwork and an inventory of the natural features. The findings were presented at a community open house and signage development was based on community input. On completion of the interpretive programming and design phase, DoE will begin the fabrication and installation of signs at Fossil Creek.

Clyde River Feasibility Study

Clyde River sits in the midst of a spectacular fiord landscape on the east coast of Baffin Island. Each fiord is unique on its own – from the monumental cliffs at the junction of Sam Ford Fiord and Walker Arm to the high vertical cliffs of the meandering China Wall. The area around Clyde River includes open-ocean, deep inlets, icebergs, sheer mountain walls, glaciers, rivers, valleys and tundra. Wildlife in the area includes polar bears, seals, narwhal, bowhead whales, caribou, hare, Arctic fox and numerous bird species. The rolling hills of the Barnes Plateau, found at the end of the fiords, are important caribou hunting grounds.

To date, studies have assessed the conservation value of the land, culture, heritage and wildlife, and investigated opportunities for recreation, tourism and economic development for the Clyde River area. Field work has focused on Ayr Lake, the five fiords, Revoir Pass, Stewart Valley and other passes through the mountains connecting to the fiords. Additional work also included determining the opportunities and implications of park development, mapping, examining implications of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, developing preliminary cost-benefit and market analysis, concept options for the proposed park and further community consultation.

Boundaries recommended for the proposed park area in 2005 will ensure that the cultural, natural and archaeological resources and habitats in the area are protected, and will also allow for maximum tourism and economic development. The fiords north of Clyde River were selected because this area is

Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut, 2005

Sam Ford Fiord

one of the most scenic Arctic fiord landscapes on the east coast of Baffin Island and is a culturally important area to Inuit. The area has high potential for long-term economic diversity and growth related to tourism and recreation opportunities, benefiting guides and outfitters. The development of a territorial park will also provide education and training opportunities for the people of Clyde River. The area contains Inuit Owned Lands as well as marine areas, both of which would require additional discussions between the community, Qikiqtani Inuit Association and territorial and federal partners, and may or may not be included in any potential territorial park.

The next phases of this project will be in keeping with the processes agreed to in the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement. They will include more detailed descriptions and assessments of the wildlife and vegetation; cultural, archaeological and mineral resources; Inuit place names and oral histories; as well as consultations with various parties that may have an interest in the study area.

Northwest Passage Trail – Gjoa Haven

In 1993/94, the Northwest Passage Trail was developed to showcase the search for the Northwest Passage and to increase the tourism potential of Gjoa Haven. The Northwest Passage Trail is not a park in the conventional sense – rather it consists of a self-guided interpretive trail with stops at points of historical interest throughout the community. The trail, linked to displays in the local Hamlet office and the Heritage/Visitors' Centre, tells the story of the many failed expeditions and the one successful attempt of Roald Amundsen through the Northwest Passage. The focal point of the trail is the Amundsen Cairn, which was erected in 2003 in commemoration of the centenary of Amundsen's arrival in Gjoa Haven.

In 2005, community research and consultation on the history of the Northwest Passage walking trail was undertaken to inventory and assess the trail features and to provide direction on the development of the new signage program.

2006 marks the centenary of Amundsen's historic voyage through the Northwest Passage, an event that will be internationally commemorated. Combined with the beginning of the International Polar Year in 2007, Nunavut Tourism initiated a "Northwest Passage Legacy Project" to celebrate the pristine beauty of the Northwest Passage and to recognize its role in Nunavut and Canadian heritage. The initiative will identify and plan related projects, enhance marketing and communications, develop co-operative partnerships, and identify how it will all roll into the 2007 International Polar Year.

It is hoped that the Legacy Project will not only raise interest in the north, but also provide opportunities for capacity building at the community level and provide an identity at the territorial level that will carry on long after the project is complete.

Existing Territorial Parks

Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga Territorial Park

Just inland from the west coast of Hudson Bay, about eight kilometres northwest of the community of Rankin Inlet, lies Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga ("*the land around the river of little fishes*") Territorial Park. In summer and fall, visitors and residents enjoy the spectacular scenery, fishing, swimming, berry picking and may view abundant wildlife, including the peregrine falcon. The most outstanding feature is the historic site Qamaviniqtalik ("*place of ancient sod houses*") and its interpretive walking trail located on the flood plains of the Meliadine River. The numerous archaeological features at Qamaviniqtalik are representative of the transition from the Thule culture to the historic Caribou Inuit culture.

Park development has been ongoing since the summer of 2003 and there are now three picnic areas, a small camping area with tent pads, and a newly renovated cabin with a wood stove. Visitation to the park has been steadily increasing and the community uses the park as a staging area for activities during cruise ship visits and for other special events. A park brochure and guidebook were completed in 2005 and interpretive signage will be installed during the summer 2006. Future plans include the development of hiking/interpretive trails.

Katannilik Territorial Park

Katannilik ("*the place of waterfalls*"), in south Baffin near Kimmirut, is an area of approximately 1,270 km^2, most of it in the Soper River watershed – a Canadian Heritage River. The park provides opportunities for water-based recreation, including rafting, canoeing and kayaking as well as hiking, cross-country skiing, dog sledding and snowmobiling.

With assistance from park staff, the community organizes cultural events for visitors to the park, including those from cruise ships that visit Kimmirut. Summer visitor use alone has resulted in increased economic impacts in Kimmirut for arts and crafts, home-stay programs and community events. The Soper House, the home of the 1930s explorer and biologist Dewey Soper, now serves as the Soper House

Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut

Katannalik Territorial Park

Gallery where soapstone carvings, handicrafts, and jewelry made from local stone are for sale through the Qulirualiut Society.

Katannilik park staff continue to host annual summer science camps in the park for local students, with funding support from the Kakivak Association. Students learn about wildlife and plant ecology, traditional use of rocks and minerals, navigation using rocks/stars, and safe boating skills on a river.

Construction at Taqaiqsirvik, a campground in Kimmirut, has been completed and an emergency shelter at Soper Falls will be completed in 2006. A boathouse has also been constructed at Soper Falls to assist park staff in monitoring activities within the park.

Kekerten Territorial Park

Kekerten Territorial Park, located 50 km from Pangnirtung within Cumberland Sound, was a highly used Scottish Whaling Station during the 1850s and 1860s. A number of artifacts remain as part of the whaling station, including the 1857 foundations of three storehouses, large cast-iron pots, and restored tent frames and rings.

The Government of Nunavut and the community of Pangnirtung have been working on the second phase of a restoration project for Kekerten, which is meant to increase economic development opportunities while enhancing the awareness of the unique whaling history. The development of the Scottish Whaling Station at Kekerten will support local outfitters providing tours to the park by increasing the interpretive potential of the site to include the relationship of Inuit with the whalers. The design phase is complete and includes a three-dimensional skeletal structure ghosting the Scottish whaling station, removable fabric interpretive panels, and several interactive interpretive stations throughout the site. Pending confirmation of funding, it is expected that the work will begin in 2006.

Redevelopment of facilities in Kekerten Territorial Park has been initiated and new facilities will be constructed in the summer of 2006. Interpretive signage and other site needs will be reassessed during the year.

Kugluk (Bloody Falls) Territorial Park

Kugluk (Bloody Falls) Territorial Park is located 15 km southwest of the community of Kugluktuk, around Bloody Falls on the lower Coppermine River. The focal point of the park is the falls, where the rock and cliffs force the river into a boiling, rushing torrent. Above and below the falls, where the river widens, the rugged tundra climbs up from the river to the surrounding hills and plateaus. Winter ice breaks up and floods the land around the falls. During the summer the land is covered by lush tundra vegetation, including an impressive show of wildflowers.

The approximately 10 hectare area also contains remnants of Thule winter houses used more than 500 years ago, evidence of pre-Dorset use more than 3,500 years ago, archaeological evidence of Indian hunting camps of more than 7,000 years ago, and a rich history of Arctic exploration. Bloody Falls was declared a national historic site in 1978 because of its rich history of occupation and a shared history between the Inuit and Dene, which was not always friendly. In fact, the park got its name in 1771 when European explorer Samuel Hearne witnessed the massacre of unsuspecting Inuit by a group of Dene warriors with whom he was travelling.

Because of its close proximity to Kugluktuk, local use of the area for camping and fishing is increasing, reflecting the traditional use of the site. The park is a convenient place to camp for canoeing and rafting parties descending the Coppermine River, and a newly constructed portage trail provides an easy traverse around the rapids. Future plans include the development of multi-use trails to provide safer public access and the development of informational materials, such as a park brochure and a park information kiosk.

Mallikjuaq Territorial Park

Mallikjuaq (*"big wave"*) is an appropriate name for an island where rounded rock hills and low tundra valleys resemble giant rolling waves. Mallikjuaq Territorial Park, a 45 minute hike or 10 minute boat ride across from Cape Dorset, better reflects the human history than its geology. The park showcases archaeological sites and stone structures dating back over three millennia.

Future site improvements may include construction of new interpretive panels and boardwalks at some of the key locations in the park, expanding on the current interpretation while protecting archaeological sites from deterioration. This is necessary because of the increasing number of visitors to the park in recent years.

Ovayok Territorial Park

Ovayok, or Mount Pelly, is the name used to describe the large esker that dominates the landscape within this territorial park located 15 km east of the community of Cambridge Bay. According to the local legend of Ovayok, the three esker mountains were once a family of giants who died of starvation while walking across Victoria Island in search of food. Visitors can explore the legend and the rich cultural history associated with Ovayok as they hike through the park, whether they choose a day trip or to camp for several days.

Ovayok Territorial Park is accessible by vehicle and visitors will likely see muskox while driving to, or within, the park. A half day

hike to the summit of Ovayok reveals spectacular views of the surrounding landscape, the raised beaches of the mountain and a possible peregrine falcon or Arctic hare sighting. The area is renowned for its diversity and numbers of Arctic birds, and many bird watchers from around the world are attracted by opportunities to add to their life lists.

An interpretive plan for the park was completed in 2005, and will be followed in 2006 by the design and printing of a park brochure and guidebook, the fabrication and installation of interpretive signage, the installation of picnic furnishings, and identification of hiking routes through the park. The projects will support local outfitters providing tours to the park by increasing the interpretive potential of the site.

Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut

Ovayok Territorial Park

Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park

Located one kilometre from the heart of Iqaluit, Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park provides an opportunity for many visitors and residents to easily access an Arctic landscape. The park provides visitors with a chance to see a variety of Arctic plants, mammals and birds. Cultural heritage in the park area includes traditional fishing sites at the Sylvia Grinnell River rapids, stone cairns and Thule ruins. A recent study found demand and use of the park has made Sylvia Grinnell Park Iqaluit's number one recreation site.

As a result of increased year-round use and related impacts, the Department of Environment (DoE) continues to work on trail development and day use areas in Sylvia Grinnell. Design and development of an interpretive program was completed in 2005, and orientation and interpretive signs are to be installed in 2006.

DoE has also continued to work with the TransCanada Trail Foundation and the Rotary Club of Iqaluit to design and construct a pedestrian bridge over the Sylvia Grinnell River. The bridge would connect park users to Qaummaarviit Territorial Park on the other side of Sylvia Grinnell Park.

Qaummaarviit Territorial Park

Qaummaarviit, located approximately 14 km west of Iqaluit by boat, is a Thule heritage site and represents more than 750 years of Inuit occupation. The remains of summer houses, kayak stands, meat caches and other archaeological features can be observed. The park also contains the remains of 11 winter houses, which were built with raised living surfaces and deep entries to minimize cold living conditions. Department of Environment recently redeveloped the interpretive walking trail and designed and installed new interpretive signs, which offer a glimpse of the remarkable features left by past inhabitants of this beautiful island.

Canadian Heritage Rivers

Coppermine River

The Coppermine River was nominated as a Canadian Heritage River in 2002. It flows for 450 km over the Canadian Shield from its source at Lac de Gras, north of Great Slave Lake, and into the Arctic Ocean at the community of Kugluktuk. Names like Bloody Falls, Muskox Rapids and Rocky Defile tell of the river's turbulent rapids, times past and foreshadows adventure for today's river travellers.

It was stories of the copper deposits that brought Samuel Hearne to the area in 1771. Hearne's account of his overland journey to the river, and the massacre he witnessed at Bloody Falls, brought the Coppermine into the history books. The copper deposits were important to the first peoples who lived there and many important archaeological sites, distinguished by copper artifacts, are found along the river.

Other explorers, such as Sir John Franklin, John Rae and Vilhjalmur Stefansson, used the Coppermine in their search for the Northwest Passage and as a fur trading route. The river's resources have long supported the traditional subsistence lifestyle of the Inuit and Dene for over 8,000 years, and still do today in a land that is essentially unchanged

since the first European explorers saw in over two centuries ago.

Caribou, muskox, wolverine, wolves, moose and fox are common throughout the Coppermine river watershed, as are Arctic char and what has been proclaimed as a greater diversity of fish species than any other Arctic area. The river is also famous for its nesting raptors – gyrfalcons, peregrine falcons, rough-legged hawk, and golden and bald eagles.

In 2006, and in keeping with Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement negotiations related to the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, the community of Kugluktuk, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, and the Department of Environment will begin development of a management plan for the eventual designation of the Coppermine River as a Canadian Heritage River in 2007.

Campgrounds

Campgrounds are important elements in the Nunavut Territorial Parks Program, providing services for park visitors and local communities. Community involvement in the planning and development includes the selection of campground sites, type and number of facilities as well as identification of campground names. Nunavut Parks began the process of re-developing its existing campgrounds and establishing and developing new campgrounds in 2002.

Upgrades have been completed to Inuujaarvik in Baker Lake; Pisuktinu Tunngavik in Pangnirtung has been physically relocated with new facility installations; and Taqaiqsirvik in Kimmirut was completed in 2004. The old Qilaluqat campground in Pond Inlet will be dismantled, renamed to Tamaarvik, and new facilities will be installed south of the community near Salmon Creek in 2006. Tupirvik campground in Resolute Bay will also be completed in 2006.

Nunavut Parks and Special Places Communications

Building on the recently completed **www.nunavutparks.com**, the Department of Environment (DoE) has produced a number of new communications pieces for territorial parks, including the Nunavut Parks poster/brochure, which includes a map and information on territorial parks and other sites operated by DoE. To complement the poster/brochure, a series of information cards have been completed for each of the sites. This information is available in visitor centres and wildlife offices throughout Nunavut.

In 2006, DoE will complete the Inuktitut translation of its web site and continue the development of park brochures and guidebooks. New brochures and guidebooks are now available for Ovayok, Igalugaarjuup Nunanga and Sylvia Grinnell Parks.

Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve

The Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve of Canada was formally established under the *Canada National Parks Act* on 1 December 2005. This is Canada's 42nd national park/reserve, and the first in Labrador. This took place in conjunction with the coming into effect of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement (LILCA)* on the same day.

The reserve protects an area of Arctic wilderness that covers roughly 9,700 km^2 of rugged mountains and breathtaking fiords which has been home to Inuit for thousands of years. With the establishment of this reserve, 28 of Parks Canada's 39 natural regions are now represented by one or more national parks and reserves, and the total amount of land protected in the national parks system is roughly 275,000 km^2.

The establishment marks the fruition of years of discussions about the possibility of a national park in the Torngat Mountains area with Labrador Inuit, provincial residents and other interested Canadians. It is a direct outcome of two key agreements signed in Nain, Labrador, on 22 January 2005 – the *Labrador Inuit Park Impacts and Benefits Agreement*, signed between Parks Canada and the Labrador Inuit Association, and the *Memorandum of Agreement for a National Park Reserve of Canada and a National Park of Canada in the Torngat Mountains*, signed between Parks Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. Both of these *Agreements* were requirements of the *LILCA*.

It is expected that the national park reserve will move to full national park status in the near future, once an Impacts and Benefits Agreement is completed with the Nunavik Inuit of northern Quebec, who will also have treaty rights within the area of the national park reserve.

Angus Simpson, Parks Canada, 2005

Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve

South Slave

Government of Canada – Parks Canada

East Arm of Great Slave Lake

In October 2005, the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation (LKDFN) identified an area of land within its traditional territory that it would like to protect through a combination of mechanisms, including the possibility of a national park. Parks Canada and the LKDFN are working together to see what part of Thaydene Nene (*"the land of our ancestors"*) might become a national park.

The LKDFN, together with the other two Akaitcho First Nations, will finally reach a decision about establishment of a national park/ reserve through the Akaitcho Process. This Process is likely to take several years. In the meantime, Parks Canada, in consultation with the LKDFN and others, will be working on matters such as defining park boundaries, assessing mineral potential and conducting a tourism study.

Parks Canada and the leadership of the Northwest Territory Métis Nation had their first meeting about the park proposal in November 2005. It is Parks Canada's expectation that this initial information session will eventually lead to consultations with affected Métis.

Initiatives Spanning Two or More Claim Areas

Government of Canada – Parks Canada

Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada

Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada was established as a result of an agreement signed in 1996 by the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Inuvialuit Game Council. Approximately 16,340 km^2 of Canada's Tundra Hills Natural Region were protected through the agreement, which also provided for the possible future expansion of the park into the Sahtu Settlement Area to the south and into Nunavut to the east.

The park is home to musk oxen, grizzly bears, wolves, red foxes, wolverines, Arctic ground squirrels, collared lemmings and the Bluenose caribou herd as well as to migratory birds, including peregrine falcons and golden eagles, and to fish such as Arctic char, grayling and lake trout. More than 360 archaeological sites are found in Tuktut Nogait National Park, including ancient tent rings and caches.

A. Fehr, Parks Canada, 2005

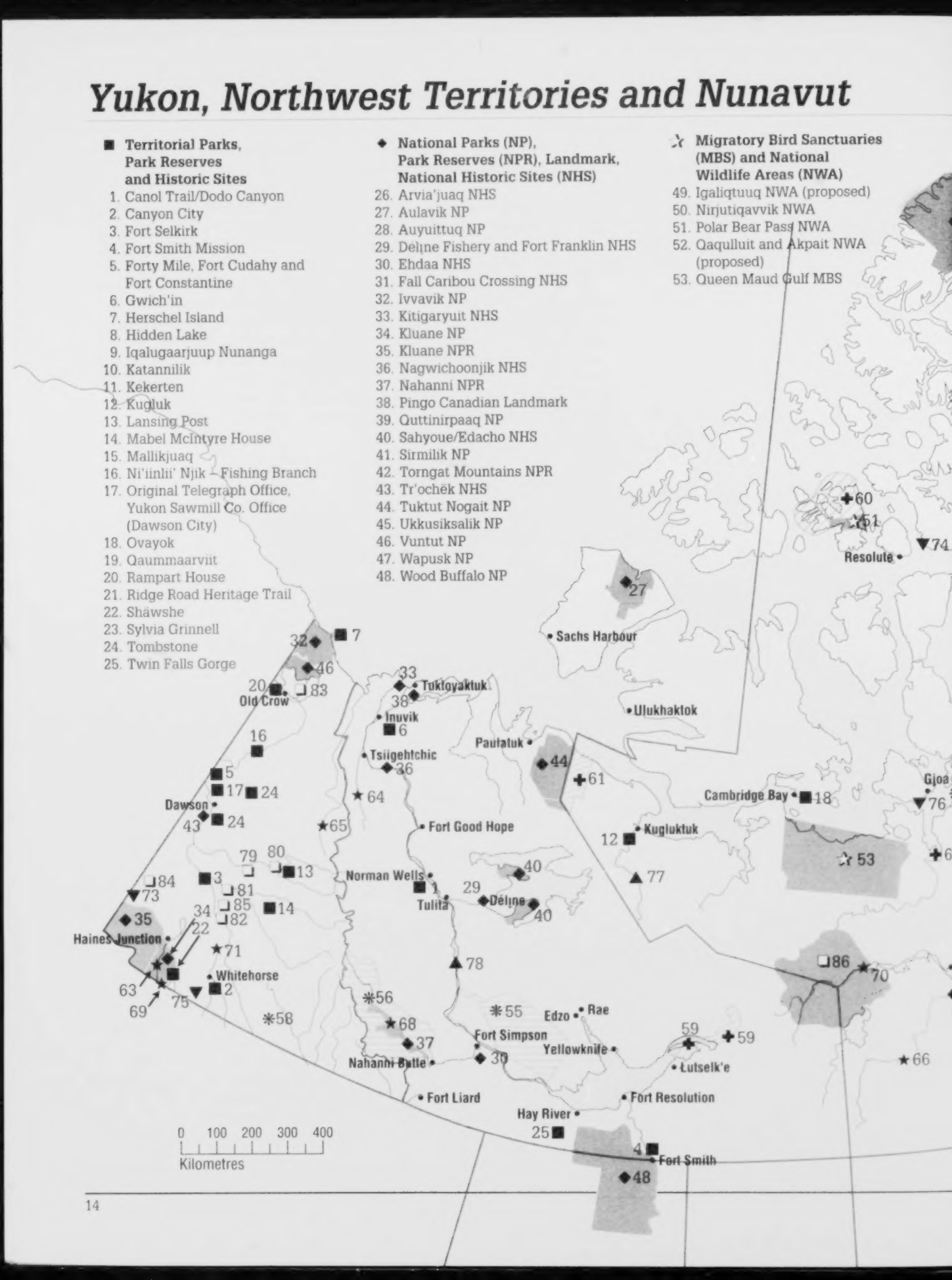
Raymond Taniton, President of the DLC and Stéphane Dion, Minister of the Environment, sign the Impact and Benefit Agreement.

Sahtu Settlement Area

On 1 August 2005, the signing of the Impact and Benefit Plan between the Déline Land Corporation (DLC) and the Government of Canada allowed for the addition of 1,841 km^2 of Sahtu lands to Tuktut Nogait National Park.

Negotiations toward the expansion of the park into the Sahtu Settlement Area (SSA) were initiated in 2000. The plan and park expansion will ensure the protection of the Tundra Hills Natural Region, economic benefits to the participants under the *Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* and the support of Parks Canada for the proposed visitor centre to be constructed by the DLC.

Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut



✱ Areas Under Study
54. Foxe Basin Islands
55. Mills Lake/Edéhzhie
56. Nahanni National Park Reserve study area
57. Rasmussen Lowlands
58. Wolf Lake
✚ National Park and National Historic Site Proposals
59. East Arm of Great Slave Lake
60. Northern Bathurst Island
61. Tuktut Nogait
62. Utkuhiksalik
★ Heritage Rivers
63. Alsek
64. Arctic Red River
65. Bonnet Plume
66. Kazan
67. Soper
68. South Nahanni
69. Tatshenshini
70. Thelon
71. Thirty Mile (Yukon River)
▼ Territorial Park and Historic Site Proposals
72. Alijivik (Ruin Point)
73. Asi Keyi
74. Beechey Island
75. Kusawa Lake
76. Northwest Passage/Franklin Expedition
▲ Proposed Heritage Rivers
77. Coppermine
78. Mackenzie (or portions thereof)
❏ Other Conservation Areas
79. Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area
80. Horseshoe Slough Habitat Protection Area
81. L'hutsaw Wetlands Habitat Protection Area
82. Nordenskiold River Habitat Protection Area
83. Old Crow Special Management Area
84. Pickhandle Lakes Habitat Protection Area
85. Ta'tla Mun Special Management Area
86. Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary
Legend
Existing Parks, Park Reserves, Game Sanctuaries
Proposed Parks
Study Area
Territorial Parks, Park Reserves and Historic Sites
National Parks (NP), Park Reserves (NPR), Landmark, National Historic Sites (NHS)
Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS) and National Wildlife Areas (NWA)
Areas Under Study
National Park Proposals
Heritage Rivers
Territorial Park and Historic Site Proposals
Proposed Heritage Rivers
Other Conservation Areas
Grise Fiord
50
41
Pond Inlet
41
Arctic Bay
41
Clyde River
49
52
Qikiqtarjuaq
28
Pangnirtung
11
Igloolik
Hall Beach
54
23
Iqaluit
19
67
10
Kimmirut
Repulse Bay
15
Cape Dorset
45
42
72
Coral Harbour
Chesterfield Inlet
9
26
Arviat
47

Another key aspect of the plan is its provisions to foster greater understanding and respect for the Sahtu Dene and Metis's culture and heritage as well as for the region's cultural resources. The SSA is home to two National Historic Sites of Canada – Sahoyue-ʔehdacho, which is of great spiritual and historical significance to the Sahtu Dene (also see articles on page 18), and the Deline Fishery and Franklin's Fort.

Inuvialuit Settlement Region

A crew of six conducted an archaeological project at sites on Uyarsivik (Cache Lake) on the Hornaday River in Tuktut Nogait National Park. Several features, including a hearth, tent ring and windbreak, were excavated at a small site on the northeastern shore of the lake. A marrow extractor, a scraper and copper fragment were recovered as well as several bird and caribou bones. A few of the caribou bones had been split for marrow extraction. Inside the tent ring was a hearth with charcoal and a row of rocks dividing different activity areas. The site is estimated to be a few hundred years old.

The presence of several rock markers, on a height of land ranging from the northeast of Uyarsivik to the Hornaday River, were recorded at a distance of about five kilometers. Poor weather for several days at the end of the project precluded the excavation of a hunting blind on this corridor. A second tent ring site in the vicinity of the earlier excavation could not be relocated before the weather closed down at the end of the project, despite testing in the general area.

Nunavut

At the request of the Kugluktuk Community Beneficiaries Committee (CBC), Parks Canada organized a public meeting in Kugluktuk in November 2004. Two individuals from Paulatuk answered questions and provided information on that community's experience with Tuktut Nogait National Park, and a Parks Canada representative answered questions about the proposal.

The meeting served to provide information to the broader community, but did not provide a clear indication of whether the community supports the proposal. The CBC members indicated that they would consider what they learned from the meeting and would provide further advice to Parks Canada. Parks Canada has not yet

Parks Canada in Schools

A new education program has produced a keen group of Outreach Education promoters across the north and throughout southern Canada. The Pan Northern Group (PNG) met in Whitehorse to participate in training and co-operative projects, and looked at incorporating some national programs into the north and showing the south some northern resources. Some educational projects discussed included:

Eco Pal and History Pal – Started by Parks Canada in Schools in the Atlantic provinces, this program "pals" schools up via the internet. An introduction to the program has inspired the PNG to try promoting this across the north.

Environmental Stewardship Certificate Program – The PNG is working toward adapting this successful Western Arctic Field Unit program for use in Nunavut and beyond.

On-the-land Camps – Based on a guide being prepared by the Western Arctic Field Unit, the PNG will adapt some of the plans and ideas that will enhance the PNG's ability to deliver outdoor camps in the north.

Places People Travel – This educational resource will link across the north and is based on the theme "Places People Travel". Specific grades and subject areas for each territory will be targeted, and the information will comply with the territorial curricula and connect up with the curricula in southern Canada. Promoting interest in local connections to natural and cultural landscapes in National Parks and Historic Sites is the primary objective of this project.

Parks Canada Pan Northern Group – Outreach Education
Back row, l to r: Kristy Frampton, Lynda Hutcheson, Elise Maltin, Rose Margeson, Brenda Frost, Emma Hansen, Gerry Kisoun, Pat Dunn, Mike Keizer, Suzanne Henry, Billy Etooangat. Front row, l to r: Christian Kimber, Kim Henkel, Bev Mitchell, Marlene Wolki, Sophie Borcoman, Laura Gorecki, Hillary Zimmerman, Aleta Esau, Israel Mablik.

heard back from the Committee.

A tourism potential study of the Bluenose Lake area that was proposed for 2005 has been postponed. The terms of reference for the study need to be developed in consultation with the Kugluktuk Hamlet Council, the CBC, Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association, the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tourism. The new target for having this study completed is the end of 2006.

Parks Canada will continue the dialogue with the people of Kugluktuk to identify any other information they may require to reach a final decision about park establishment.

If the decision is to proceed with the park, the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* requires that the Government of Canada and Inuit conclude an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement before a national park can be established in Nunavut.

Expansion of Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada

Parks Canada continues to work on the expansion of Nahanni National Park Reserve (NNPR) to enhance protection of its ecological integrity and to better represent the Mackenzie Mountains Natural Region in the National Parks System. The Nahanni Expansion Working Group, created in 2004, continues to guide the implementation of the *Memorandum of Understanding* between Parks Canada and the Dehcho First Nations (DFN) to expand NNPR. This working group has two members appointed by the DFN and two by Parks Canada.

The area of interest for the completion of Nahanni National Park Reserve includes the Greater Nahanni Ecosystem, as defined in the park management plan. This is the entire watershed of the South Nahanni River and the area of karst lands to the northeast. While most of the area of interest lies within the Deh Cho, the headwater area of the South Nahanni River lies in the Sahtu. The Sahtu preliminary draft land use plan calls for the protection of the headwaters and the Tulita Dene Band Council passed a motion of support calling for the land to be withdrawn in May 2004. Supporting letters have also come from other Sahtu organizations and Parks Canada will act as the sponsoring agency through the process set out in the NWT Protected Areas Strategy.

The Nahanni Expansion Working Group (NEWG) is directing several research projects relating to natural and cultural conservation values. Building upon work completed in 2004, research in 2005 included oral history interviews respecting traditional travel routes and original place names, studies of grizzly bears, woodland caribou, Dall's sheep, bull trout, trumpeters swans, and a reconnaissance of some of the glaciers to the northwest of the current park. Field work for a Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment was completed in 2005.

Based on the 2005 research reports, NEWG will begin consultations with First Nations and local communities, third-party stakeholders and the broader Canadian public in 2006. The NEWG is to make a recommendation for a new boundary for NNPR to the DFN and Parks Canada in September 2006.

For further information, please contact: **nahanni.expansion@pc.gc.ca**.

NWT Protected Areas Strategy

Overview

The NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) is a guide for making decisions to protect lands using the best available knowledge, and provides an effective community-based tool for advancing culturally and ecologically significant areas to long-term protected status. The PAS envisions a future that safeguards special natural and cultural areas, while keeping resource development options open.

The goals of the PAS are:

- to protect special natural and cultural areas; and
- to protect core representative areas within each ecoregion in the NWT.

The PAS was developed by regional Aboriginal organizations, the federal and territorial governments, environmental non-governmental organizations and industry. Representatives from these organizations continue to oversee the PAS process through their participation on the PAS Steering Committee.

Mackenzie Valley Five-Year Action Plan

The Mackenzie Valley Five-Year Action Plan is part of the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS). The Action Plan describes what needs to be done over five years (2005 to 2010) to help communities in the Mackenzie Valley work through the PAS process to protect the land. The impetus for the Action Plan is the increasing pace and scale of development within the NWT, in particular along the Mackenzie Valley. The proposed Mackenzie Gas Project, if approved, will be the largest energy development project in the NWT and one of the largest in Canadian history.

The PAS Action Plan outlines the requirements for effective and timely conservation planning and describes the strategic investments needed over the next five years to identify, review, establish interim protection and evaluate a network of protected areas in the Mackenzie Valley. It also identifies the resources required to meet the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project timeframe. By providing increased capacity to the communities within the Mackenzie Valley, the Action Plan will support the long-term conservation goals such as those identified in

community conservation plans, land use plans and interim measures and land claims agreements.

The Protected Areas Strategy Eight Step Process

The initial stages of the Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) process includes identifying areas of interest and gathering support for protecting these areas from all regional stakeholders (Steps 1 and 2). All known information about the area is gathered and documented for its importance. A proposal to protect the area is developed and reviewed by regional organizations and the PAS partners (Steps 2 and 3). If necessary, a sponsoring agency can apply for an interim land withdrawal to provide temporary protection for the area while more detailed studies are completed (Step 4). Step 5 involves a detailed evaluation of the area, including studies on the ecological, socio-economic, cultural, renewable and non-renewable resource values of the area. Step 6 is to seek formal establishment of the protected area, followed by approval and designation (Step 7). The final step is to implement, monitor and review the protected area (Step 8).

Update on Key Areas

Community and Aboriginal organizations in all areas of the NWT have shown an increasing interest in working through the Protected Areas Strategy process to protect areas of value.

Sahoyúé-ʔehdacho

Sahoyue-ʔehdacho was the first area of interest to advance through the Protected Areas Strategy (PAS). Designated a National Historic Site in 1998, the community of Deline is seeking national historic park designation for Sahoyue-ʔehdacho. This designation will provide the area with surface and subsurface protection. An interim land withdrawal for this area, sponsored by Parks Canada, is in effect until 2010 and a working group is currently involved in finishing Step 5 of the PAS process (also see articles on page 13 and page 18).

Edéhzhie (Horn Plateau)

Edehzhie, a 2.5 million hectare site in the Mackenzie Valley, includes the Horn Plateau, Horn River, Mills Lake and Willowlake River. It is a cultural and spiritual gathering place for the Tłı̨cho and Dehcho First Nations and is an important source of fresh water. In 2002, Edehzhie was the second area of interest to attain interim protection under the Protected Areas Strategy. The initiative is supported by both First Nations and a working group is overseeing ecological, mineral and resource assessments within the area (Step 5).

Ts'ude'hliline-Tuyetah (Ramparts River/Wetlands)

Ts'ude'hliline-Tuyetah is a critical wetland area that has been an important hunting, trapping and fishing area for residents of Fort Good Hope for generations. The Yamoga Land Corporation is now working on completing a proposal for interim protection for the area (Step 3).

A number of other areas are in the early stages of the Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) process. For more information on Sambaa K'e (Trout Lake), Pehdzeh Ki Deh, the Tulita Conservation Initiative and the Nahanni Headwaters, or the PAS in general, please visit our web site at **www.enr.gov.nt.ca/pas**.

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – *NWT Chapter*

Sahoyúé-ʔehdacho

Designated a National Historic Site in 1998, Sahoyue-ʔehdacho (pronounced "saw-you/eh-da-cho") is comprised of two peninsulas on Great Bear Lake, also known as Grizzly Bear Mountain and Scented Grass Hills. This area is of great importance to the cultural heritage of the Sahtugot'ine (the Dene of Great Bear Lake) and to all Canadians. While national historic site designation provides official recognition and commemoration, it does not provide protection from industrial development. Unlike most of Canada's National Historic Sites, Sahoyúé-ʔehdacho is a unique cultural landscape – an area where oral histories and stories are tied to specific places on the land. As such, concerns remain as to how the values of the area will be permanently protected, as National Historic Site legislation is not designed to do this.

In 1999, the community of Deline brought Sahoyue-ʔehdacho to the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) as the first candidate protected area to enter the process (also see articles on page 13 and page 18).

At the end of October 2005, Déline community leaders and Elders met to confirm their vision of Sahoyúé-ʔehdacho as a protected area, which has remained clear from the beginning. They also discussed a common vision and preferred management option with Parks Canada as the sponsoring agency under the PAS. During the workshop, community members talked about how Sahoyúé-ʔehdacho is integral to their cultural well-being, and that protecting it is an important responsibility given to them by their ancestors – it is part of who they are. Déline would like assistance in developing capacity and skills to achieve the central role they want in the co-management of the protected area with Parks Canada. They also would like Sahoyúé-ʔehdacho to be teaching places, where cultural transmission from Elders to youth is fostered and helps to stabilize and sustain the community.

Staff from Parks Canada, the Government of the NWT, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness

Society-NWT met with community Elders and leaders in November 2005. Discussions centered around a general management vision for Sahoyúé-ʔehdacho and the process by which protection, management and funding issues would be discussed and resolved. All parties agreed upon a common vision:

Sahoyúé-ʔehdacho are teaching and healing places, co-operatively managed by Dél̨ı̨ne and Parks Canada. They help to sustain Sahtugot'ine culture and contribute to a better understanding of the area's importance to Canadian heritage.

A preferred management option was agreed to which provides for the establishment of Sahoyúé-ʔehdacho as a protected area made up of both Crown and Sahtu lands, jointly managed by Parks Canada and Dél̨ı̨ne, according to specifics to be negotiated in the future.

Parks Canada and Dél̨ı̨ne continue discussions, and the Sahoyúé-ʔehdacho Working Group will complete assessments and reports on the area. There is a renewed sense of enthusiasm and commitment on the part of all parties to complete the work that the Dél̨ı̨ne Elders initiated.

Yukon

Government of Canada – Parks Canada

Vuntut National Park of Canada

On the flanks of the southern British Mountains, within the boundaries of Vuntut National Park, are seven historic caribou surrounds. These immense wooden structures, positioned strategically across the migration route of the Porcupine Caribou Herd, represent some of the last surviving remnants of a technology once wide-spread across the subarctic.

Susceptible to fire, decay and visitor disturbance, the Vuntut caribou fences were the subject of a multi-year documentation project conducted jointly by Parks Canada Agency and the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Heritage Office between 2002 and 2005. The goals of the project were to accurately document the caribou fences, their location, construction and relationship to the landscape, and to assess the condition of these unique and fragile structures to assist with their management.

The seven known sites in Vuntut occur in three clusters: Black Fox Creek on the eastern boundary of the park, Timber Creek in the central area, and Thomas Creek near the Alaska border on the west. Augmenting studies done in the late 1970s and early 1980s, five of the seven fences were accurately relocated using GPS technology and documented using still and video photography. Four of the five were mapped in detail using a 12 metre high bipod specifically designed for the project. Vertical photography captured representative sections of the fences, documenting their construction in detail. Emerging technology known as digital video mapping – linking geo-referenced still and video photos, electronic maps and text – was utilized to organize and present the large amount of data collected on the fences.

A series of reports and presentations, and an interactive multi-media mapping tool for use in presentation and monitoring, have been generated from the Caribou Fence Mapping Project. The data, including field notes, maps, drawings, photographs and video, is now curated with Archaeological Services, Parks Canada in Winnipeg. Reports and electronic products from the project have been deposited with Vuntut National Park of Canada and the Vuntut Gwitchin Heritage Office in Old Crow, in order that they may be more readily accessible to the community (also see article on page 25).

D. Brodbelt, Parks Canada, 2003

Using the bipod for vertical photography, Thomas Creek Fence 1 (Site 101Y).

Government of Yukon – Department of Environment – *Parks Branch*

Agay Mene

Agay Mene is subject to *Carcross/Tagish First Nation Final Agreement* provisions and will be designated a natural environment park in the same manner as Kusawa Lake. A portion of the future park area is

situated within the Telsin Tlingit Council traditional territory and a steering committee, comprised of representatives from the Government of Yukon, Carcross/Tagish First Nation and the Telsin Tlingit Council, is to be established by January 2008 to prepare a park management plan.

Agay Mene is within the Yukon Southern Lakes ecoregion and the proposed 697 km^2 park is adjacent to the southeast corner of the Atlin Road and Alaska Highway. The ecoregion is situated within the rain shadow of the Coast Mountains and consists of plateaus and rolling hills. Forest fires, both new and old, are frequent and extensive in this ecoregion, resulting in a forest dominated by growths of lodgepole pine. Agay Mene will capture Tarfu Lakes and a large portion of the Snafu Lake chain, providing significant recreational opportunities.

While the steering committee works on preparing a management plan for the park, the area will be managed in accordance with the objectives identified in the Final Agreements. The status of any land withdrawal relating to oil, gas, quartz and placer claims will be addressed during the development of the park management plan.

Devil's Elbow / Big Island Habitat Protection Area

Through traditional and local knowledge, Devil's Elbow and Big Island are two small areas along the Stewart River that have been identified as important moose calving habitat. These areas also provide habitat for waterfowl, fish and a variety of other wildlife. The Mayo District Renewable Resources Council (MDRRC) proposed the area to the Department of Environment and a management plan is being prepared. The working group is made up of representatives from the MDRRC, First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and the Government of Yukon. The Habitat Protection Area plan will be completed and considered for designation in 2006.

Kusawa Lake

The *Carcross/Tagish First Nation Final Agreement* was signed 24 October 2005, with an effective date of 9 January 2006. This Final Agreement, along with the Kwanlin Dun First Nation Final Agreement, contains clauses for the establishment of the Kusawa Lake area as a natural environment park (also see article on page 27). Both Agreements identify a detailed process for preparing a park management plan, including the establishment of a steering committee within two years of the effective date. Representatives on the committee will consist of government and three First Nation groups: Champagne and Aishihik, Carcross/Tagish, and Kwanlin Dün.

Because of the exceptionally high recreational and natural values of the park area, along with its easy access, the Parks Branch has had an active interest in the area since 1982. Whitehorse is 70 km away by road and the future park already receives significant recreational use.

Most of the approximately 3,210 km^2 are within the Yukon Stikine ecoregion, which features the merging of three biomes resulting in an unusual biodiversity for a rugged mountain setting. A smaller portion of the area is within the Yukon Southern Lakes ecoregion. Kusawa Lake provides an excellent example of one of the many southern lakes in this region.

Management planning will be highly complex and intensive due to the park area overlapping with the interests of the three First Nations and the high recreational use that this area will continue to receive. While the steering committee works on preparing a management plan for the park, the area will be managed in accordance with the objectives identified in the Final Agreements.

Aboriginal Leadership Development Program

In May 2005, respected chiefs, Elders, Parks Canada and Yukon College representatives welcomed Aboriginal Leadership Development Program (ALDP) participants from across the country to Whitehorse.

The ALDP is a national, four year training and development program aimed at developing a group of Aboriginal leaders within Parks Canada – a knowledgeable, skilled network of individuals in a variety of functions and levels in the organization. The program's fundamental goal is full-time, long-term retention of Aboriginal leaders in Parks Canada through skills development and individualized training plans.

Graduates from the Aboriginal Leadership Development Program, Parks Canada, 2005.

The ALDP is a Parks Canada initiative delivered in partnership with Yukon College. The core instructional elements represented in each of the four years include an introduction to protected areas management, communications, conflict resolution and project management. Leadership skills development, traditional knowledge and career planning are the central themes throughout the four year program.

Until recently, the ALDP has focussed on recruiting Parks Canada employees. In 2005, a new initiative was developed that targeted building capacity adjacent to new national parks. Individuals from outside of Parks Canada were invited to participate in the 2005 program. The expected result of training these individuals will be that they will be able to effectively compete on positions within Parks Canada. Increased Aboriginal representation provides direct benefits to the local community, while meeting Parks Canada commitments to Aboriginal communities.

For further information on this program, please contact **nicola.pritchett@pc.gc.ca**.

J Meikle, Government of Yukon, 2004

Snafu Lake

J Meikle, Government of Yukon, 2005

Primorse Narrows at Kusawa Lake.

L'hutsaw Wetland Habitat Protection Area

L'hutsaw Wetlands (formerly Von Wilczek Lakes) is an important wetland complex for shorebirds, duck staging, nesting and moulting along the North Klondike Highway, south of Pelly Crossing. It has been identified as a Special Management Area under the *Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement* and is predominantly on Selkirk lands.

A steering committee, made up of members nominated by the Selkirk First Nation and the Government of Yukon, has completed a management plan for L'hutsaw Wetlands, with approval expected early in 2006. The L'hutsaw Wetlands will be designated a Habitat Protection Area under the *Yukon Wildlife Act* soon thereafter.

Ni'iinlii' Njik (Fishing Branch) Protected Areas

The Fishing Branch River and its tributaries, located in the North Ogilvie Mountains upstream of Old Crow, form the basis of this protected area. The area is made up of four units – a parcel of Vuntut Gwitchin Settlement Land, two territorial parks, including an Ecological Reserve and Wilderness Preserve (5,213 km^2), and a territorial Habitat Protection Area (978 km^2). In accordance with the *Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Final Agreement*, the areas are managed as an ecological unit to protect the Fishing Branch River and a population of grizzly bears that congregate there each year.

In 1999, a joint management plan for the settlement land and Ecological Reserve was approved. A committee of managing agencies was established to give advice on implementation and review of the management plan. It was recommended that a wildlife viewing facility and its staff be relocated to a new site to improve safety and reduce environmental impacts. Construction of the facility was

completed in 2004 and the existing tent frames were replaced by solid cabins in 2005 to provide more security for travellers in bear country.

A risk management plan for bears and a potential commercial bear viewing program have been completed to the draft stage. A new bear monitoring program is in place, in accordance with the management plan.

A joint management plan for the larger Wilderness Preserve and Habitat Protection Area surrounding the settlement lands and Ecological Reserve was approved in 2004. No further development is identified for these remote areas.

Nordenskiold Wetland Habitat Protection Area (Tsalnjik Chu)

The Nordenskiold River valley, south of Carmacks, is a major wetland complex and an important waterfowl staging and nesting area. It has been identified as a Special Management Area under the *Little Salmon/Carmacks Final Agreement* and is entirely on settlement land.

A steering committee, made up of members nominated by the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation and the Government of Yukon, has prepared a draft management plan for review. Approval of the plan and designation as a Habitat Protection Area under the *Yukon Wildlife Act* is expected in 2006.

Old Crow Flats Special Management Area

Old Crow Flats is the Yukon's largest wetland complex and is internationally recognized under the UN RAMSAR convention. Located on the Old Crow River system north of the Arctic Circle, the Flats contain more than 2,000 ponds and marshes ranging in size from one-half to 4,700 hectares. The area is an important breeding and moulting ground for 500,000 water birds. Waterfowl, muskrats and other wildlife of the Flats are of great importance to the Vuntut Gwitchin.

A major portion of the southern area is settlement land with additional Crown land. The northern part was included in Vuntut National Park of Canada and a management plan specific to the park has been completed. Under the terms of the *Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Final Agreement*, the Old Crow Flats Special Management Area will be managed to maintain the integrity of the area as one ecological unit. The conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats, and the continued traditional use by the Vuntut Gwitchin, will be used as guiding principles. The management planning process is expected to be completed in 2006.

Pickhandle Lakes Habitat Protection Area

Pickhandle Lakes is an important wetland complex for waterfowl staging, nesting and moulting. The area was identified under the *Kluane First Nation – Final Agreement* as a Special Management Area and is also listed under the not-yet-ratified White River First Nation Final Agreement. Management planning will commence in the area in five years or upon approval of the White River Final Agreement, whichever happens first. It will eventually be designated as a Habitat Protection Area under the *Yukon Wildlife Act*.

Tombstone Territorial Park

Tombstone officially became a territorial park in the fall of 2004 and is designated a Natural Environment Park in accordance with the *Tr'ondek Hwech'in Final Agreement (1998) (THFA)*.

This park is located along the Dempster Highway, where Arctic tundra and boreal forest meet the Pacific Arctic Divide, and is approximately 2,100 km² in size. This diverse landscape supports a rich natural and cultural history and spectacular scenery, making it a popular destination for hikers and other travelers in the Yukon.

A draft management plan has been forwarded to the Tr'ondek Hwech'in and Government of Yukon and, until approved, the park will be managed in accordance with the principles and objectives identified in the *THFA* that pertain to Tombstone.

During the 2005 operating season, Holland America extended their bus tours in the Klondike region by one day. Over 3,000 of those clients chose to tour the Tombstone Park and a portion of the Dempster Highway. Several day use trails were upgraded in preparation for the increased use, and work is proceeding with the planning and design of a new park interpretive centre.

Canadian Heritage Rivers

Tatshenshini River

The Yukon portion of the Tatshenshini River was designated a Canadian Heritage River in September 2004. It was nominated in June 1998 as one of the requirements under the *Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Final Agreement*. The preparation of a Tatshenshini management strategy began in 1999, with extensive consultations focusing on three main issues – recreational use, size of the management area and access routes.

Located in one of the wildest areas in the world, the Tatshenshini is known for its wilderness, wildlife and salmon. It provides significant recreational opportunities in a wilderness setting amongst spectacular scenic mountains. Establishment of the Yukon portion of the Tatshenshini River as a Canadian Heritage River complements the existing network of protected areas consisting of Kluane National Park and Reserve of Canada, Tatshenshini-Alsek Park of BC, and the Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve and Wrangell-St.Elias National Park of the US National Park Service, that together form the adjacent UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Tatshenshini River management strategy focuses on monitoring visitor activities along the river corridor to ensure that the recreational, cultural and natural values remain intact. The management area includes the upstream portion of the watershed and is approximately 1,400 km^2 in size. Implementation of the management strategy has begun, with emphasis on establishing a river monitoring program for the 2006 operating season.

The designation of the Tatshenshini as a Canadian Heritage River does not affect existing legislation, regulations or policies related to land or resource uses. Existing and proposed uses of the watershed will continue to be permitted within these existing legislative frameworks. The Government of Yukon, Parks Canada, BC Parks and the US National Park Service continue to jointly manage the Tatshenshini/Alsek river drainage in accordance with their own mandates and respective areas of responsibility. Special attention is devoted to the allocation and scheduling of commercial and recreation trips by a river manager selected by the five jurisdictions/ agencies.

An on-site dedication ceremony was held July 14, 2005, commemorating the national and territorial significance of the Tatshenshini River, while recognizing its outstanding natural, cultural and recreational values.

Tourism and Culture – *Heritage Resources Unit*

Fort Selkirk

Restoration and maintenance work, as well as interpretation activities, continued at this site over the summer of 2005.

There are over 40 historic structures standing along one kilometre of river terrace at Fort Selkirk which are in need of constant monitoring, repair and maintenance. A three-day log building conservation workshop included an introduction to conservation principles, technical lectures and hands-on practice. Eighteen people from across Yukon participated, half of which represented First Nations.

Archaeological and oral history research projects were also carried out with the assistance of the Historic Places Initiative (also see article on page 24).

The foundation and flooring system for the Big Jonathan House were replaced. This building is one of two used as an Interpretive Centre at the site. A craftsperson was engaged to provide training in carpentry to the restoration crew who, along with interpretive staff, were hired by the Selkirk First Nation through a contribution agreement with the Government of Yukon.

Government of Yukon, 2005

Former Royal Canadian Corps of Signalers Transmitter Station.

Herschel Island

Routine maintenance carried out on Herschel Island in early July 2005 included annual monitoring inspections, the replacement of the roll asphalt roof covering on the Rangers' Quarters and the installation of a solar panel array. The Ranger's Quarters, formerly known as the Royal Canadian Corps of Signalers Transmitter Station, formed a part of the NWT and Yukon Radio System. The system was designated a National Historic Event at a ceremony held in Dawson City in August 2005.

In 1923, the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals was called upon by the Department of the Interior to establish a high frequency communications system in Canada's Northwest. After opening the first radio stations in Dawson City and Mayo in October 1923, the system spread across the Yukon, NWT and northern Alberta to include 28 stations, providing vital communications to the north and important meteorological data to the south until 1959. The station on Herschel Island was constructed in 1930.

Shoreline erosion and erosion of interior portions of the historic settlement area at Pauline Cove continue to be monitored to assist in the planning to protect cultural resources from increasing threats from the environment.

Government of Yukon, 2005

Yukon Saw Mill Company Office with new addition.

Original Dawson City Telegraph Office and Yukon Saw Mill Co. Office

The Original Dawson City Telegraph Office and the Yukon Saw Mill Co. Office were designated as Yukon Historic Sites during ceremonies held on August 23, 2005. The Minister of Tourism and Culture, members of the Yukon Heritage Resources Board and many Dawsonites were on hand for these historic events. The buildings are the second and third to be designated as territorial historic sites under the *Yukon Historic Resources Act*.

In June 2005, the Original Dawson City Telegraph Office was leased to the Dawson City Museum and Historical Society and is now occupied by the Museum Director. The structure was designed and built by architect Thomas Fuller at the turn of the 20th century. His architectural legacy in Dawson City includes the Commissioner's Residence, Court House, Post Office and Old Territorial Administration Building – all impressive heritage landmarks.

The Yukon Saw Mill Co. Office, built in 1901, is the last remaining vestige of a large lumber milling complex along Dawson City's waterfront. During the heady days of the Klondike mining boom, "Sawmill Row" supplied miners with their materials and contributed to the rapid development of Dawson City into the largest city west of Winnipeg and north of San Francisco.

The Heritage Resources Unit completed the first phase of the building's rehabilitation in 2005, including an addition of house code-compliant stairs to the second floor, washrooms, heating and ventilating, and a fire suppression system.

Government of Yukon, 2005

Cadzow House braced for lifting.

Rampart House

Restoration of the historic buildings at Rampart House Historic Site continued in the summer of 2005. The two-storey Cadzow House was braced and lifted to allow for the replacement of rotted floor beams, wall sills, wall logs and post ends. Logs were harvested and hewn over the previous years to replicate the members requiring replacement. The work was carried out by a crew of Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation residents of Old Crow.

Historic Places Initiative

Yukon continues to participate in the national Historic Places Initiative (HPI), whose objective it is to improve the state of conservation in Canada and increase Canadians' access to and understanding of their heritage by actively engaging them in its preservation. Information about the HPI can be found at **www.historicplaces.ca**.

Through a HPI Class Contribution Agreement, Parks Canada is assisting Yukon to achieve the capacity to fully participate in aspects of the national program. The three main objectives are:

- to provide support for the Canadian Register of Historic Places (CRHP) and for the development and dissemination of the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*;
- to harmonize the Yukon Historic Sites Inventory (YHSI) to the CRHP; and
- to engage the public in heritage conservation and make them aware of government programs that can assist them.

Yukon's efforts have been directed toward increasing the quantity of sites listed and data available in the YHSI, improving the quality of information and ensuring a representative collection of native and non-native sites covering all regions of the territory. A number of Yukon's historic places have been added to the database. This will provide a more comprehensive understanding of the range of Yukon heritage values and a rational evaluation of the relative significance of the sites.

The YHSI is accessible online to researchers who contact the Historic Sites Registrar at: **hpi.registrar@gov.yk.ca**.

LS/CFN 2005

Grave fence at Big Salmon Village.

Big Salmon and Yukon Rivers Investigations

Ten days were spent mapping and documenting heritage resources in the traditional territory of the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation (LS/CFN) along the Yukon River between the Village of Carmacks and the historic site of Big Salmon Village, where the Big Salmon River enters the Yukon River. Of the 26 localities visited, archaeological testing carried out at three sites confirmed ancient use. Much of the time was spent at Big Salmon Village where five standing buildings, three collapsed structures, four building outlines and 19 graves were recorded.

The site of Big Salmon Village is on First Nation Settlement Land. The investigations and documentation carried out were a joint project of the LS/CFN and Yukon Heritage Resources.

Hudson's Bay Company Post – Fort Selkirk

The Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) Post at Fort Selkirk, 1848 to 1852, was the first Euro-Canadian outpost in the Yukon interior. The Post was abandoned due to the increased hostility from Coast Tlingit traders who objected to competition for trade with Yukon interior First Nations. The site had been a trade rendezvous long before the HBC arrived.

Previous archaeological investigations in the late 1980s located part of the original Post. Investigations in 2005 provided a better understanding of its layout and activities, and the relationship between the HBC traders and the indigenous occupants of the site. The identification of Northwest Microblade Tradition occupation, in the treed area near the Post remains, was an unexpected find. This extends the history of occupation of Fort Selkirk to between 5,000 and 8,000 years ago. Oral history research, carried out with Selkirk First Nations Elders to broaden the perspective of the rich heritage of the site, is now part of the interpretive program.

Northern Yukon Caribou Fence Study

Documentation of northern Yukon caribou fence complexes in 2005 was a joint project of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Yukon Heritage Resources and the University of Alberta.

The existence of these ancient, northern Yukon caribou fences was known to the people of Old Crow, but the fences did not become the object of archaeological study until 1975. Complexes were mapped and the structural components of the fences, such as the trap or pocket, and drift fences were documented, along with associated features such as caches and drying racks. Test excavations were carried out at old winter villages associated with two of the fences. Dendro chronological studies were undertaken on fence construction and zooarchaeological analyses of faunal remains from three of the fence complexes were made. In co-operation with Vuntut Gwitchin Elders from Old Crow, oral histories on ownership, construction and operation of the fences were collected. Archival research was carried out to collect ethnographic and ethnohistorical information and research communal hunting systems. This information, combined with existing First Nation research, will result in a comprehensive report on the interception and surround strategies of caribou hunting in northern Yukon.

The 2005 activities focused on augmenting existing information and filling gaps. Specifically, this involved

Government of Yukon, 2005

Venus Mill

the collection of additional photo documentation, video recording of Elders speaking on site, and mapping of the Timber Creek fence complex (also see article on page 19).

Photogrammetric Documentation

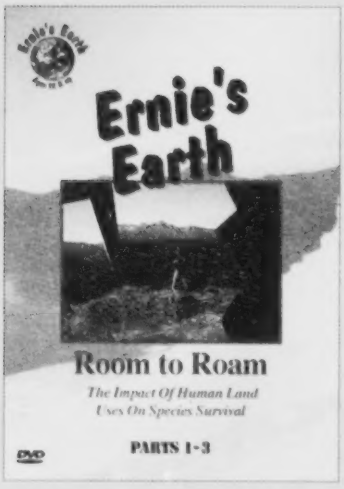
A team of specialists was contracted to provide photogrammetric records of four large structures in South Yukon. These are: the Venus Mill located on Windy Arm of Tagish Lake; the Caribou Hotel in Carcross and the two log Skyscrapers in Whitehorse. These records include extensive photo documentation, scalable, rectified photo drawings as well as site and floor plans. These records are a valuable contribution to the Yukon Historic Sites Inventory.

Keno Mining Heritage Inventory

The Historic Places Initiative also provided for the documentation of abandoned mining sites around the community of Keno. This silver-rich area was the backbone of the Yukon mining industry from early in the 20th century until the 1970s. So integral to Yukon's growth, this heritage has been under represented in the Yukon Historic Sites Inventory, until now.

Yukon Historic Places Web Site

This web site has been designed to facilitate public access to information on Yukon's heritage and provide a "Yukon face" to the national Historic Places Initiative (HPI). A key component of the site is the Yukon Register of Historic Places, an online listing of information on all formally recognized Yukon historic sites – federal, territorial and municipal. Information is available on the process of historic site designation in Yukon, HPI in general and financial incentives available for heritage conservation. For more information please refer to **www.yukonhistoricplaces.ca**.



Ernie's Earth – Room to Roam is an inspiring educational video in which "Ernie", a naturalist, scientist and sociologist, sets out to uncover the problems and solutions behind human land uses in the face of declining species habitats and populations. Aimed at grades 6 through 10, the three half hour sessions focus on attitudes and actions to help young people wrestle with values in search of a workable balance. Humans need to use land; species are already using much of it. What is the best way to co-exist? Themes such as green mapping, figuring and reducing ecological footprints, protecting natural spaces with parks and protected areas, and innovative ideas like the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative help students realize the complexities, responsibilities and collective resolutions that are a part of how people should populate this planet.

This three part CD set comes with a comprehensive Educator's Guide, with lessons suitable for social science, science and environmental studies, and activities for each chapter and topic. Visit the web site for more information or to place an order: **www.thirdeyemind.ca/roam.htm**.

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – *Yukon Chapter*

Yukon's Proposed Kusawa Park Withdrawn From Mineral Staking

In March 2005, the Government of Yukon protected the proposed Kusawa Natural Environment Park from mineral claim staking and other land dispositions (also see article on page 20).

This scenic area west of Whitehorse is approximately 3,200 km^2 in the Stikine Highland and Southern Lakes ecoregions. It has been an active park candidate since the start of the Endangered Spaces Campaign in 1989. Earlier, part of the area had been a Recreation Reserve, but the territorial park proposal did not advance until progress was made on land claims negotiations.

The pristine Kusawa Lake watershed is set in the leeward Coast Mountains and is known for its wildlife diversity, such as an important population of Dall sheep, mountain goats, raptors and grizzly bears. Aquatic species include lake trout, whitefish, grayling and salmon. Much of the park area is high elevation habitat critical for resident large ungulates and carnivores, but lowland areas in the watershed also make a significant contribution to protection of the southern Yukon's boreal forest. Impressive sand dunes and extensive boreal grasslands are special ecological features of the proposed park.

Archaeologists and palaeontologists have drawn international attention to the importance of Kusawa Lake as a window on the past. Melting snowfields have revealed extensive ancient caribou dung deposits and artifacts left there by the people who once hunted the caribou. Remains of bison, sheep and other animals have been found, often well preserved in the ice on the high cold ridges. Today, the long, deep Kusawa Lake and the Takhini River are popular destinations for camping, canoeing, boating, hiking, angling and hunting.

June Peepre, 2005

Kusawa Lake

Kusawa Park will be a vital conservation legacy for the southern Yukon. Although not yet formally designated as a territorial park, official park status will follow once a management agreement between the Government of Yukon and the Kwanlin Dün, Carcross/Tagish, and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations is concluded. The Carcross/Tagish First Nation recently ratified their land claim agreement and the park is recognized as a Special Management Area in the Final Agreement of the Kwanlin Dün. The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) has strongly supported the creation of this park over the last 15 years.

Permanent withdrawal of 321,000 hectares of the proposed Kusawa Park is a significant step forward toward completion of a network of Yukon protected areas. This brings the total amount of permanent or interim protected lands in the Yukon to about 12.7%, or 61,296 km^2, excluding the interim Special Conservation Lands on the North Slope negotiated through the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*. Of the total conservation lands in the Yukon, approximately 10.5% are closed to industrial development.

Images of the Kusawa Lake and Stikine Highland area are on the CPAWS-Yukon web site at **www.cpawsyukon.org**. Go to "Our Conservation Work/New Protected Areas", click on the Yukon Wild icon and follow to the Yukon Stikine Highland Ecoregion. Conservation maps are in the resources section of the web site.

For More Information...

Additional information on the initiatives described in New Parks North can be obtained from the following offices:

National Parks, National Historic Sites and National Marine Conservation Areas
Parks Canada
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New Parks North
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fax: (867) 766-8466
e-mail: newparksnorth@pc.gc.ca

Nunavut Parks and Special Places
Department of the Environment
Government of Nunavut
Box 1000, Station 1340
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
www.nunavutparks.com
Attention: Richard Wyma
Manager, Park Planning and Establishment
phone: (867) 975-7724
fax: (867) 975-7747
e-mail: parks@gov.nu.ca

NWT Protected Areas Strategy
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Wildlife
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Box 1320
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Attention: Miki Ehrlich
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Nunavut Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and National Wildlife Areas
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e-mail: jpojar@cpawsyukon.org

All of the agencies listed here have contributed to this publication. Our goal is to provide a single, annual publication of interest to everyone following new northern natural and cultural heritage conservation issues in a convenient and economical medium.

Your comments are welcome, addressed to the Editor at the National Parks, National Historic Sites and National Marine Conservations Areas address above.